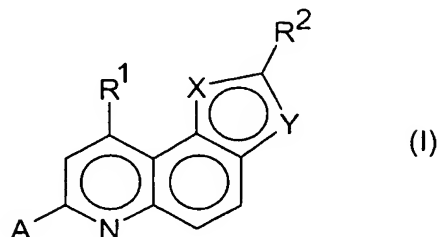


5 **What is Claimed is:**

1. A compound of formula (I),



wherein the elements X, Y, A, R¹, R² and R³ have the following meanings:

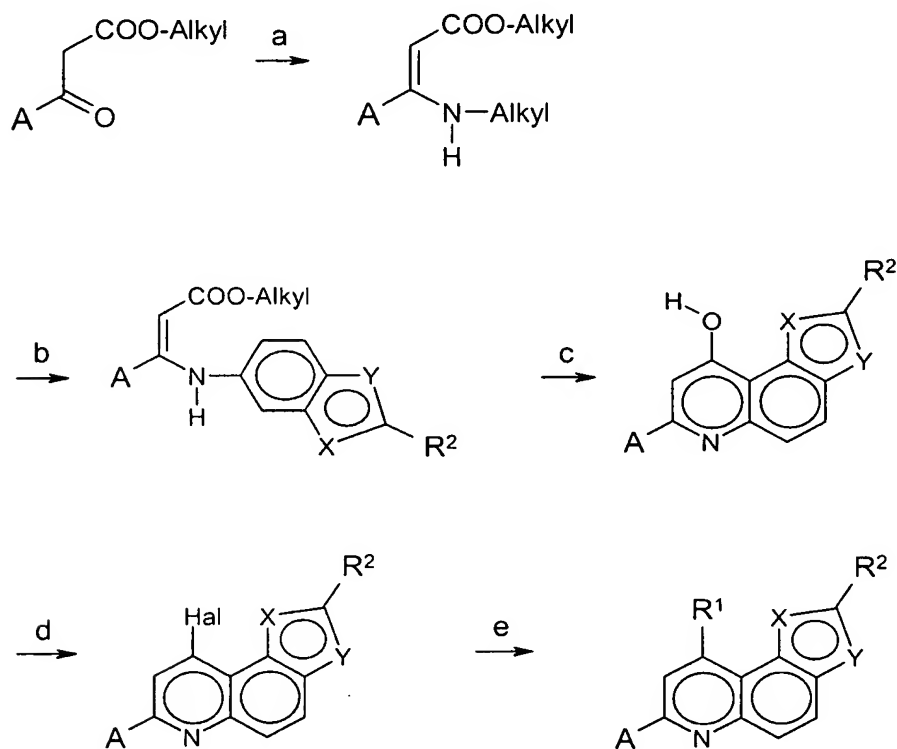
- 10 X denotes a nitrogen atom (N), oxygen atom (O) or sulphur atom (S);
 Y denotes a nitrogen atom, if X denotes an oxygen atom or sulphur atom;
 Y denotes a nitrogen atom with a bound group R³ or a sulphur atom or an oxygen atom, if X denotes a nitrogen atom;
 A denotes an unsubstituted or substituted mono-, di- or tricyclic aromatic group,
 15 which contains either no or 1-3 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, at least one of the heteroatoms being a nitrogen atom;
 R¹ denotes hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine or bromine, amino, (C₁₋₆)alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, di(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, (C₁₋₆)alkyl-(C₃₋₇)cycloalkylamino, acetidin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, pyrrolin-1-yl, imidazolidin-1-yl, imidazolin-1-yl, pyrazolidin-1-yl, pyrazolin-1-yl, piperidin-1-yl, piperazin-1-yl,
 20 morpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin-4-yl, thiomorpholin-S-oxid-4-yl, thiomorpholin-S-dioxid-4-yl, or hexamethyleneimino; and
 R² and R³ independently of one another denote hydrogen, (C₁₋₈)alkyl or (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl,
 25 or a salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein the group A is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, furazanyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl or pyrrolyl, unsubstituted or substituted by the groups
 30 R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶, where R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ independently of one another denote

- 5 hydrogen, (C₁₋₈)alkyl, monofluoro(C₁₋₅)alkyl, difluoro(C₁₋₅)alkyl,
trifluoro(C₁₋₅)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy, fluoromethoxy,
difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyloxy, fluorine, chlorine,
bromine, carboxy, (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, amino, (C₁₋₆)alkylamino,
di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, acetidin-1-yl, pyrrolidin-1-yl, piperidin-1-yl,
10 (C₁₋₄)acylamino, (C₁₋₆)alkyl-(C₁₋₄)acylamino, aminocarbonyl,
(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl, acetidin-1-yl-carbonyl,
pyrrolidin-1-yl-carbonyl or piperidin-1-yl-carbonyl.
3. The compound of claim 2, wherein the group A denotes pyridyl or
15 fluorophenyl.
4. The compound of claim 1, wherein the group R¹ denotes amino, methylamino
or dimethylamino.
- 20 5. The compound of claim 1, wherein the group R² denotes methyl.
6. The compound of claim 1, wherein the group R³ denotes methyl.
7. The compound of claim 1 selected from among the compounds:
25 3-methyl-9-methylamino-7-(pyridin-4-yl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;
7-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-9-methylamino-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;
9-dimethylamino-7-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-methyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;
9-dimethylamino-7-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-thiazolo[4,5-f]quinoline;
9-dimethylamino-7-(3-fluorophenyl)-thiazolo[5,4-f]quinoline;
30 7-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-9-methylamino thiazolo[4,5-f]quinoline;
9-dimethylamino-3-methyl-7-(pyridin-3-yl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;
3-methyl-9-methylamino-7-(pyridin-3-yl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-f]quinoline;
2-methyl-9-methylamino-7-(pyridin-3-yl)-thiazolo[4,5-f]quinoline; and
9-dimethylamino-2-methyl-7-(pyridin-3-yl)-thiazolo[4,5-f]quinoline.

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- 5 8. A process for preparing a compound of claim 1, wherein a 3-oxo-propionic acid ester, the carbonyl group of which is bound to the desired group A, is reacted according to the following reaction plan to give a compound according to the invention, wherein



process step a is carried out in the presence of a primary amine;

process step b is carried out in the presence of the desired amino derivative
of benzimidazole, benzoxazole or benzthiazole;

process step c is carried out in the presence of a suitable solvent;

20 process step d is carried out in the presence of a halogenating agent; and

process step e is carried out in the presence of the desired amine.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a
compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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10. A method for alleviating or treating pain in a warm blooded animal, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.